

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on February 25, 2008 for the present application. In the present application, Claims 7-26 are pending. By the present amendment, the abstract has been amended and all rejected and objected claims have been cancelled. In particular, independent Claims 18-23 and 26 have been cancelled. Entry of this amendment and allowance of the present application, as presently presented, is respectfully requested.

I. Objection of the Abstract

The abstract was objected to for, inter alia, having more than 150 words. The abstract has been amended and a clean copy has been provided herewith. The amended abstract overcomes the cited objections in the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection with respect to the abstract is respectfully requested.

II. Objection of Claim 20

Claim 20 was objected to. Claim 20 has been cancelled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection with respect to Claim 20 is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection of Claims 7-17 and 24-25

Claims 7-17 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-11 (respectively) of U.S. Patent No. 6,824,296 (Souza et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,655,830 (Ruskouski); and Claims 24-25 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,824,296 (Souza et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,655,830 (Ruskouski).

Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer along with this amendment in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.321(c), since the present application and U.S. Patent No. 6,824,296 (Souza et al.) is commonly owned. Accordingly, withdrawal of the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejections with respect to Claims 7-17 and 24-25 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claims 18-23 and 26

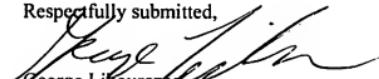
Claims 18 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,655,830 (Ruskouski); Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,575,459 (Anderson); Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,463,280 (Johnson); Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,688,042 (Madadi et al.); and Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,575,459 (Anderson). Claims 18-23 and 26 have been cancelled. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 18-23 and 26 is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the amendments made to the claims herein, and in view of the remarks/arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections raised by the Examiner in the present Office Action should be withdrawn. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references of record considered individually or in any proper combination, disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed subject matter.

Further, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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